

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA
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EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, FJ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR ROYAL FIJI POLICE FORCE

REF: SUVA 407

1. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE THAT PROVISION OF A VESSEL TO THE FIJIAN POLICE WOULD INDEED BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF EMPHASIZING OUR CONCERN FOR THE COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION IS SIMPLY NOT FEASIBLE.

2. SECTION 660 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS USE OF AID FUNDS FOR ANY POLICE-RELATED ACTIVITY. RELEVANT LANGUAGE IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTENONE OF THE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS ACT AND NONE OF THE LOCAL CURRENCIES GENERATED UNDER THIS ACT, SHALL BE USED

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TO PROVIDE TRAINING OR ADVICE, OR PROVIDE ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT, FOR POLICE, PRISONS, OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT FORCES FOR ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OR ANY PROGRAM OF INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE OR SURVEILLANCE ON BEHALF OF ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OR ABROAD. UNQUOTE. AID INFORMS US THAT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THIS PROVISION INDICATES THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IS TO CONSTRUE

THIS PROHIBITION BROADLY, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING FUNDING FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS.

3. ASIDE FROM THE SPECIFIC LEGALITIES OF THE ISSUE, WE BELIEVE THAT PROVISION OF SUCH A VESSEL WOULD RAISE CERTAIN POLICY DIFFICULTIES. EVEN IF WE WERE ABLE TO FUND ACQUISITION OF SUCH A VESSEL OR TO BE ABLE TO LOCATE A SURPLUS VESSEL AT LITTLE OR NO COST TO FIJI, THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS IS SO CLEAR IN THIS AREA THAT PROVISION OF ANY ASSISTANCE TO A POLICE FORCE IN THE PACIFIC IN ANY FORM COULD WELL PREJUDICE OTHER PROPOSED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE AREA ON WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO NOTIFY CONGRESS SHORTLY.

4. FYI: QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO POLICE WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP IN TONGA DURING VISIT OF STATE/AID SURVEY TEAM. TEAM REPLIED ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 1, ADVISING TONGAN AUTHORITIES THAT ANY HELP IN THIS AREA WOULD HAVE TO BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO A CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

5. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH WE FEEL THE LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTION RENDERS THIS POINT MOOT, WE ALSO FEEL THAT PROVISION OF A VESSEL TO FIJI AT LITTLE OR NO COST WOULD BE EXTREMELY IRKSOME TO THE SAMOANS WHO MUST COME UP WITH SOME DOLLARS 200-700 THOUSAND OF THEIR OWN IN ORDER TO AVAL THEMSELVES OF OUR OFFER OF A VESSEL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORUM SHIPPING LINE.

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